

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

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The Democratic press is now trying to make trouble between the United States and Cuba. If another revolution could be started there and this country put to a measurable loss in blood and treasure the Democracy would feel that it was making politics. It is not a high mission for an American party but it is the best the Democracy can adjust to its present temper.

Alexander Young's plans for the Victoria Hospital are still in embryo but will soon be advanced to the stage of an architectural design. It is not at all likely that the project will be given up though naturally so large an undertaking cannot be rushed. In the meanwhile a philanthropic public may do well to interest itself in the temporary Victoria Hospital which can make excellent use of Christmas and New Year donations.

Pago-Pago, the American town in Samoa, is likely to become a large village and a busy port. The rule of the Germans at Apia, while just and reasonable, has altered so many Anglo-Saxon customs there that American and British residents are moving to Pago-Pago and will build it up. There are the rudiments of a small Honolulu in the new town, though for lack of a considerable area of agricultural soil behind it, the place can never hope to rival this one commercially.

If it was necessary for Plumbing Inspector Moore to give way to any one, there could have been no more satisfactory choice than a sanitary engineer, unidentified with the plumbers and lacking their "confidence." We are told that Mr. Keene is such a man. The fear was when Mr. Moore's retirement was proposed that he might be succeeded by a union plumber and that the Society of the Lead Pipe Cinch would have its innings again. Assuming that these apprehensions are not justified Mr. Keene seems to be the right man for the work in hand, a statement we make without prejudice to Mr. Moore, whom we believe to have been efficient.

If it were true that a charter is needed or wanted for Honolulu by those who would have to bear the cost, the plea for deliberation and delay would have the emphatic indorsement of this paper. In any event deliberation is a good thing, for who could expect a satisfactory system of local government to be built up between December and March in a place which presents more complex municipal problems than any other town in America and by men, the majority of whom have had no qualifying experience? A charter for Honolulu should have a long foreground of study and comparison. Men should be sent to the Mainland and Europe to find what is best in the administration of utilities; citizens should post up on municipal needs; the question of taxes should be carefully figured out. Of course a job-chaser's charter could be framed in two weeks, but a charter for the taxpayers would need all of two years.

The so-called "sacred concert" is a favorite device of dive theaters to get people into their clutches on Sunday. Nothing more disreputable can be seen and heard in the underground resorts of London and New York than the "sacred concerts" where men and women of the worst reputations make mockery of religious music. Here in Honolulu, the Orpheum, which has gradually been getting less respectable for some months past, is eager to introduce the "sacred concert" and will do so unless checked by law. At the outset such concerts are staid enough but in a little time they run into a sort of minstrel show and are an utter desecration of the Sabbath. Unless Honolulu has degenerated from its past estate it will see that all theaters are kept closed on Sunday, their work not being of the kind that answers to the legal requirements of necessity or mercy. We think that, in this matter, the Honolulu Protective League should have something to say.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The signs of renewed and energetic purpose in the Board of Health appropriately signalize the nearing anniversary of the plague. For a long time past the Board, without a President, has been giving the sanitation of the city less remedial care than many people have deemed necessary. Now the policy is to condemn plague-breeding places, of which there are all too many. It is a sign of earnestness in this good work that the Board will keep out of politics and not permit a "pull" of any kind to draw it aside from the straight path of duty.

The first business of the Board of Health should be and we think will be to keep Honolulu clean. People who are familiar with the new Chinatown insist that it is gradually getting in a bad way. Perhaps the state of general nastiness has been exaggerated but the smells which are noticeable on King street between the Nuuanu stream and the Ewa end of the new Oriental quarter suggest all sorts of unpleasant things. As yet we cannot, of course, abolish the cesspool, but those plague-spots may be kept clean in the crowded parts of the town. The disposition of garbage is a matter of concern, the promised crematory being as yet unrealized. Much garbage must be decaying in the thronged Oriental quarter. It goes without saying that the Board should apply the remedy with a stern hand. The law is all on its side, making owners responsible, in criminal proceedings, for insanitary conditions on their property; and tenants may likewise be punished. All that is needed is enforcement without fear or favor.

After the cholera epidemic Honolulu fell back into its old, indifferent ways and the bubonic plague followed. After the plague there should have been no relaxation of effort but if any came there is yet time to repair it. Confidence that the right policy will be pursued comes of President Raymond's straightforward and earnest words. It looks as if he meant business, and that the danger Honolulu is in of a recurrence of the plague—a peril from within and without—will be met by a policy of enforced sanitation.

LEADERS OUT OF POLITICS.

A Southern paper, pointing to the disappearance from the public life of its section of great political leaders, urges young Southerners to fit themselves for politics and bring back the good old days when the South could speak by the lips of men born to attract and command an audience throughout the length and breadth of the Union. It asks why the men who might lead are unwilling to do so; why they are content to live in an era of small politics when issues may arise to summon a Calhoun to the Senate and a Jackson to the Presidency?

These questions are often asked, not in or of the South alone, but the answer is not a puzzling one. Half a century and more ago the highest and best-rewarded career in the United States was political. The masses were poor; there were no great fortunes; the salary of a Senator was something worth the winning; the distinction of office was as yet unspoiled by little and vulgar men. But a growing prosperity on the one hand and the degradation of politics on the other have since supplied an incentive to the careers of commerce and "empire-building" which was lacking half a century ago; and at the same time have given men of keen sensibilities an aversion to politics which many of them are not able to overcome. Great men find now a better and more enduring field for their talents in America than the practice of statesmanship can win for them. Senators come and go, their dreams of greatness soon shattered, their names soon forgotten; Presidents in the zenith of their powers are sent back to obscurity to rust in dignified disuse—but the great captains of industry are always in the saddle, winning victories and keeping in the public eye. Probably no greater American has lived in recent years than the late C. P. Huntington. He would have made one of the strongest of public leaders if he had gone into politics rather than business—but in the end he might have graven the file of disappointments with Grant or met the misfortunes of Blaine and Conkling. He chose a life which was not subject to the caprice of parties—a greater life than politics, save in the day of crisis, can possibly afford.

Because men like Webster and Lincoln and Calhoun and Jefferson Davis no longer wage battle on the high ground of politics, let it not be supposed their qualities are absent from the American body politic. The great men are still in evidence—but they must be looked for in the railroad offices, in the mines, at the head of commercial combinations, in the arena of finance. There the highest powers bring the best price. "Jerry," said a financier in one of Charles Dudley Warner's incomparable studies of American life, "you ought to be President of the United States." "Not much," answered Jerry, himself a captain of industry, "the salary is too small." That is not precisely the sentiment which sways all men who prefer business to politics; but the feeling that it is better to achieve a life-long success in the world of finance than to endure the buffets and humiliations and disappointments of a career in which the winning of the greatest prize is but the preparation for laying it aside forever. After all politics is like a forage chase. There is excitement, dust and dirt and many a tumble; a rude race across country—and then the capture of an animal the meat of which is worthless and the tail alone of value, and that value the mere worth of an ornament; in the end a sure retirement from the field, making way for younger men. What is there in that to attract the sober-minded?

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE.

The approach of Christmas always turns the thoughts of the generous-minded to some form of public charity appropriate to the day. Here in Honolulu there are many openings for the philanthropic impulse; and happily there are ten times as many people ready to make the most of them. Among the institutions that deserve a Christmas remembrance are the Associated Charities, the kindergartens, the Victoria Hospital, the mission churches and Sunday schools, the Seaman's Home and the leper station at Kalihi. The Molokai lepers, 1,100 all told, will receive one dollar apiece as the proceeds of the Wray Taylor concert, so duty has been done towards them. We have not mentioned the prisoners on the reef, but if the discipline of the jail will permit they should not be overlooked on a day consecrated to Him who said, "I was in prison and ye came unto me."

Let a merry Christmas not be kept for those who can pay for their own merry-making. The day has a wider scope than that, in the spirit of Little Tim's greeting, "God bless you—EVERY ONE!"

THE VERDICT.

The most popular man in a western town once got into a difficulty with a disreputable tough, who was the terror of the place, and did him up in a manner entirely satisfactory to the entire community. It was necessary, however, to vindicate the majesty of the law, and the offender was brought up for trial on a charge of assault with intent to kill. The jury took the case and were out about two minutes when they returned. "Well," said the judge, in a familiar, off-handed way, "what have the jury to say?" "May it please the court," responded the foreman, "we, the jury, find that the prisoner is not guilty of hittin' with intent to kill, but simply to paralyze, and he done it." The verdict was received with applause, and the prisoner given an ovation.—The Green Bag.

THE MAN WHO SWEARS OFF.

Don't go around and boast about your swearing off on New Year's day; Don't get upon the house and shout That you have driven Vice away; He may return to mock at you So merely quit, without display—A man amounts to little who Is forced to swear off, anyway.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Men's Styles at the Horse Show.

The New York Horse Show was an excellent place to study men's fashions, gossips an observer who was present. The fashionable leaders were all there, and the clothes they had on were the right things to have on. In overcoats these men wore Raglans, very long, very loose, very broad at the shoulders, falling in folds that were not without a certain grace. In sack coats they wore a garment which went in at the waist and sprung a little, with a kind of skirt effect, over the hips. The trousers at the hips were very wide; they tightened at the bottom, suggesting in their cut slightly the "queen trousers" which the Frenchman wears. Shoes were broad and heavy, with extended soles; gloves were very heavy and soft; camees were of all kinds. The feature of men's dress seemed to be a certain careless looseness or bagginess. This was to be noted not merely in the Raglan coat or in the English trousers, but even in the frock coat.

London's "Tuppenny" Tubes.

"The 'tuppenny' tubes are a great institution in London, especially for Americans," remarks a New Yorker, who has just returned from the other side, the other day. "They are among the chief attractions, and it is a favorite diversion to purchase a ticket for a shoot through them. The tickets are almost counterparts of our elevated railway tickets in New York. The 'tuppenny' tubes," as he explained, "is the name of the underground railway. They are doing a great business in London, and there will be more of them soon. Americans promise to have control of nearly all the systems."

Estimating Experts.

Three exceptionally clever men have become recognized experts in guessing, or estimating, as they call it, the annual crops of wheat, corn and cotton. Millions of dollars are invested in futures on their published opinion. When Neill says that the cotton crop will be a million bales short, prices rise. When his confreres send out estimates on corn and wheat the market is instantly affected. More attention is paid to these individual judgments than to the reports by private wire of all the banking and commission houses combined.

Skilled Debaters in the Senate.

Among the best debaters in the Senate are Chandler of New Hampshire and Spooner of Wisconsin. Chandler is the keener and more austere of the two. Spooner has the advantage in the spectacular surprises of a running debate. Chandler is more feared as an opponent than any other man. He has a genius for discovering the vulnerable point in the enemy's armor, and he is merciless in sending his weapons home. Both he and Spooner are invariably good-natured. Neither of them was ever known to lose his temper in debate.

Howells Reads His Speeches.

Since William D. Howells became a New Yorker he has frequently been a guest at speechmaking dinners, but on very few of these occasions has he been persuaded to say anything himself, and when he has spoken he read his speech. Very few of the well-known after-dinner speechmakers trust to the inspiration of the moment for the substance of their remarks. Mr. Howells, however, never commits his speech to memory. He reads it, with no attempt at oratorical effects, and usually with the air of a man who has a distasteful task.

Submarine Trip to Europe.

Holland, the submarine boat man, proposes to cross the Atlantic in a new craft which will live under water or travel like an ordinary, respectable steamer, just as the owner desires. He has planned the itinerary and declares there is no more to be feared in making this experiment than when he first took a dive in the original Holland boat. His new invention will go first to the Bermudas, thence to the Azores, Lisbon and Cadiz, Spain. Much of the trip will be made under water, he says.

When Krueger Was There Before.

The voyage of President Krueger has led some English journalist to drag out an old story of Oom Paul's first visit to Europe. The passengers on the liner from Cape Town noted his absence from dinner, and found him eating biltong and biscuits on deck. In reply to queries, he said: "I have no money to foot away on expensive eating, like you Englishmen." But when he learned that his passage money included meals he made up for lost time.

Pres Angell Blocked It.

Arrangements had been partially made for a charity ball in the gymnasium at Ann Arbor University, December 14, but the affair is off, President Angell having hinted that he does not entirely approve of having a dance there. He thinks there are other and better ways of aiding the poor.

Wilhelm's Boy a Fine Shot.

The German Crown Prince promises to become one of the finest shots in Europe. The Emperor, who is himself an expert marksman, though he shoots with but one arm, considers his sons' education as sportsmen nearly as important as that they get from books.

PITY AND BEAUTY

The most beautiful thing in the world, is the baby, all dimples and joy. The most pitiful thing is that same baby, thin and in pain.

The dimples and joy have gone, and left hollows and fear. It is fat that is gone; gone with it, comfort and color and curve; all but pity and love.

The little one gets no fat from her food; has had none for weeks; she is living on what she had stored in that plump little body of hers. She is starving for fat; it is death; be quick!

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